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**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, May 5, 2003**

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## **SENATOR JACOBS' BILL PACKAGE PASSES THE SENATE**

Last week, the Senate unanimously passed a package of three bills that clearly define how a cemetery must use monies secured in endowment care funds. The bills specifically describe uses of the fund for maintenance, improvement, and beautification of the cemetery grounds.

"These bills protect the rights of citizens who have purchased burial plots," said Jacobs. "Recently, one of my constituents was trying to make burial arrangements for her husband when the cemetery informed her that the plot her family had purchased in the 1940's was now unfit for burial. She had to spend \$2,000 of her own money for improvements so that the plot could be used for what it was purchased for in the first place. During a time of grief and loss, this should be the last thing someone has to worry about. My legislation will prevent it from happening to anyone else."

Senate Bills 37, 38, and 39 amend the Cemetery Regulation Act to more specifically define the uses of endowment care and perpetual care funds for cemetery upkeep and maintenance to assure access to internment rights.

## **SENATOR JACOBS VOTES TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Thursday, Senator Jacobs voted against legislation that would eliminate the requirement for professional development programs for Michigan teachers. The legislation passed the Senate on a straight party-line vote.

"I'm disappointed in this legislation," said Jacobs. "I don't see how this bill helps our students and educators in any way. Eliminating professional development requirements will surely impact the quality of education our children receive."

Research shows that improving teacher knowledge and teaching skills is essential to raising student performance. A University of Michigan study determined that sustained participation in professional development activities improved teachers' knowledge of subjects and the teachers' ability to transfer this knowledge to students.

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**EMERALD ASH BORER DAMAGES CONTINUE**

As reported in a prior issue of the Jacobs Report, the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive metallic wood-boring beetle from Asia, has killed thousands of trees in Southeast Michigan. As a result, much of the area is under quarantine. Persons interested in obtaining more information about the Emerald Ash Borer should contact:

**Oakland County Michigan State University Extension**  
(248) 858-0902 (Garden Hotline)

**Dave Roberts, MSU Research**  
[http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg\\_se/roberts/ash/index.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/index.html)

**Michigan Department of Agriculture Emerald Ash Borer Hotline**  
(866) 858-0885

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

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